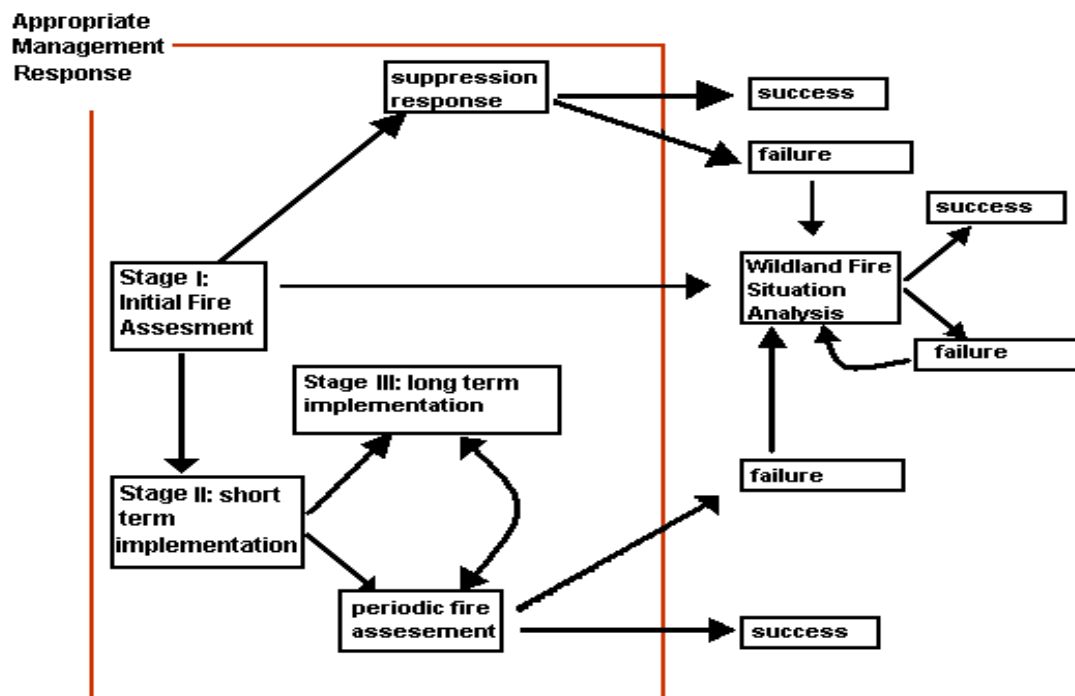Wildland Fire Use (WFU) is the management of wildland fires to accomplish specific pre-stated resource management goals in predefined geographic areas. Wildland fires in "D" FMZs will receive a suppression response commensurate with values-to-be-protected, firefighter and public safety and cost efficiency or they may be managed to accomplish resource management goals. Two types of fires may be approved for use within the D FMZs:

1. Those allowed to burn under pre-determined conditions.

2. Those ignited by qualified agency personnel designed to reintroduce the type of fire that would be expected to occur naturally.

Fire regimes may vary between vegetation types and different regions. Parameters for WFU or management ignited fires consider this natural range of variability. For example, if a natural fire regime included very frequent, cool burning surface fires, but also included an occasional long return interval stand replacement fire then that stand replacement fire is within the natural range of variability and will be considered when analyzing WFU.

The desired result is that the landscape should take on an appearance of what would exist naturally and historically. It should display a mosaic of complex vegetation patterns and types that would have evolved naturally with ecological and geological processes. There generally should be less continuous, uninterrupted vegetation types, more openings, a variety of seral stages and different communities in a random patchwork.

Figure 8.1

Before a wildland fire is managed for resource benefit, authorized and qualified personnel must follow a clearly defined decision making process. Figure 8.1 provides an brief overview of the full range of appropriate management responses and necessary steps for evaluation and management of wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in defined geographic areas.

The use of wildland fire to meet resource management objectives is a strategy that will be considered by fire managers during the Wildland Fire Implementation Process (WFIP). WFIPs document existing conditions, predicted conditions, decisions made, and trigger points for future decisions. Only the most complex fires being managed for resource benefits will require completion of all three distinct stages of a WFIP (see Figure 8.2). When wildland fires occur, pre-planned descriptions in the FMP in combination with the GO/NO GO Checklist and the Fire Situation (see Appendix C) help guide the Field Manager's decisions.

Progressive development of these stages will occur for wildland fires managed for resource benefits or where initial attack is not the selected response. Objectives, fire location, cause, conditions of fuel continuity, current fire activity, fire location, predicted weather and fire behavior conditions, and risk assessment results will indicate when various WFIP Stages must be completed. Most wildland fires will require completion of only Stage I and part of Stage II during their management. As resource benefits become more important as strategic decision factors, additional planning and documentation requirements (additional WFIP Stages) are involved.

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Since the WFIP will be prepared progressively (Stages I, II, and III), specific forms and formats will apply to each individual stage. As each stage is prepared, it will be attached to previous stages until completed or management of the fire accomplishes the objectives. When the complete WFIP has been developed, it will be a highly specific operational management plan

Standard WFIP forms has been developed by the National Wildfire Coordination Group to be used nationwide. The complete implementation process is described in the *Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy Implementation Procedures Reference Guide.* A summary of the implementation procedures, including the specific GSFO GO/NO GO checklist, can be found in Appendix C.

Figure 8.2 WFIP Implementation Stages

WFIP implementation stages, required management actions, and completion time frames. Required Management Actions key:					
1 = mandatory 2 = mandatory, but can be preplanned 3 = optional 4 = completed if Stage II or Periodic Fire Assessment, Part 2 indicate need. 5 = completed if fire exceeds management capabilities 6 = completed if Periodic Fire Assessment, Part 1 indicates need					

WFIP STAGE	PLANNING & ASSESSMENT	REQUIRED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS			MAXIMUM COMPLETION TIME FRAME
		Initial Attack	Other suppression-oriented AMRs	Fire Use Actions	
WFIP Stage I: Initial Fire Assessment	Fire Situation	1	1	1	As soon as possible
	Decision Criteria Checklist (Initial GO-NO-GO Decision)	3	1	1	2 hours after first fire detection
WFIP Stage II: Short-term Implementation Actions	Short-Term Fire Behavior Predictions and Risk Assessment	3	1	1	24 hours after Stage I completion
	Short-term Implementation Actions	2	1	1	
	Complexity Analysis	3	1	1	
	Stage III Need Assessment Chart	NA	1	1	
WFIP Stage III: Long-Term Implementation Actions	MMA Definition	3	4	4	Within 24 hours after Periodic Fire Assessment indicates need
	Fire Behavior Predictions	3	4	4	
	Long-Term Risk Assessment	3	4	4	
	Long-term Implementation Actions	3	4	4	
Periodic Fire Assessment	Part 1: Re-validation	NA	1	1	On assigned frequency
	Part 2: Stage III Need Assessment Chart	NA	1	1	
Wildland Fire Situation Analysis		5	5	6	Before implementing new strategy